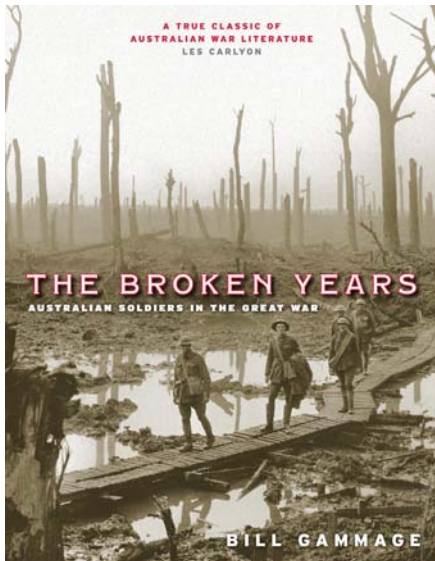


MEDIA RELEASE

Books with spine – the best in politics, current affairs and biography



MUP RRP \$49.99

PUBLICATION/EMBARGO DATE
01 April 2010

Bill Gammage is available for
interview during April.

For more information please contact
Maria O'Dwyer at MUP
on 03 9342 0329 or 0406 998 030, or
email modwyer@unimelb.edu.au

THE BROKEN YEARS

Australian Soldiers in the Great War

by Bill Gammage

"A true classic of Australian war literature"
LES CARLYON

We just fell down and slept, rain and all, and shells falling all about us, but we were too exhausted to bother; we didn't mind if we were killed; it was terrible.

We thought we knew something of the horrors of war, but we were mere recruits, and have had our full education in one day.

These are the words of men responding to the grotesque realities of war. When the Great War started in 1914, most Australians believed in patriotism, military heroism and loyalty to the British Empire. As the war dragged on, as the horrors intensified and the casualty lists grew, patriotism gave way to cynicism and courage to despair. By the time the conflict ended, basic changes had taken place in the minds of many fighting men, and their lives were never the same again.

In *The Broken Years*, using the diaries and letters of 1000 Australian soldiers, Bill Gammage reconstructs with great sensitivity the valour and the tragedy of their experience. He shows how and why the Great War had profound effects on the attitudes and ideals of Australia as a nation.

First published in 1974, *The Broken Years*, based on the diaries and letters of Australian soldiers in the Great War, has been a widely read classic ever since.

Bill Gammage is an Adjunct Professor at the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University. He grew up at Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, and graduated from the Australian National University, where he did most of the work for this book. He has taught in Port Moresby, Adelaide and Canberra, and was historical adviser to Peter Weir's *Gallipoli* and to several film and television documentaries.

MELBOURNE · UNIVERSITY · PUBLISHING

MUP 187 Grattan Street Carlton 3053 Australia · +613 9342 0300 · mup-info@unimelb.edu.au · www.mup.com.au